

May 5, 1976

Mr. George Bush  
Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D.C. 20505

Concerned Academics  
c/o N.S.E.F.  
Suite #305  
2000 P St. N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Mr. Bush,

By severing covert contractual relationships with missionaries and at least some members of the media, you have demonstrated your concern in protecting the integrity and independence of those institutions which are so vital to a democratic society. As representatives of the academic community, we feel the same guarantees against misuse and subversion are needed to insure that our institutions of higher learning are totally free of secret and often unknowing participation in CIA covert operations at home and abroad. The following CIA practices are of great concern to us.

CIA funded research at universities. The CIA has secretly funded individual professors and entire departments to carry out its research and gather intelligence. We strongly condemn this secret relationship between the CIA and the academic community, which we feel undermines free and independent scholarly work. In his Executive Order of February 18th, President Ford not only authorizes these secret research contracts on campus, but limits knowledge of the CIA relationship to "appropriate senior officials of the academic institutions and to senior project officials." This practice has broad implications for the academic community. In addition to the violation of ethical standards, this practice means that many scholars, researchers and students may be working on projects which they would find morally untenable if they were aware of the funding source and possible application of their research. Further, the CIA has been given the authority to put past and present contractors or employees under physical surveillance. Thus a professor who is knowingly or unknowingly working on a CIA contract may be the target of a CIA investigation -- a grave infringement on his or her right to privacy.

We therefore request that all CIA contracts or relationships with individual professors, researchers, or students for the purpose of research be publicly acknowledged.

Use of academic cover. In the past, CIA funding of academic groups such as the National Student Association and Michigan State's Vietnam program has caused great alarm on American campuses. In addition, the CIA is known to have made use of academic exchange programs; has sent operatives overseas under cover as students and faculty; and secretly hired students and faculty to provide services for the CIA. The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Report reveals that academics

Executive Registry  
Room 7-E-12  
Headquarters

are used to make introductions for intelligence as well as operational purposes. We feel that this role has no place in the academic community. Furthermore, these practices cast a shadow of suspicion over legitimate academic programs and place in jeopardy legitimate research programs and individual scholarships in foreign countries.

We therefore request that no academic groups, individuals, or programs be used as cover or as a funding conduit by the CIA, and that students, professors, and other faculty members should be added to your list of professions, now including journalists and missionaries, which the CIA may not use as cover or for any other operational purpose.

We have learned from the Senate Intelligence Report that the CIA has funded and assisted in the production of over a thousand books, articles, etc. which were disseminated in this country and abroad. These books have the power to strongly influence the reader's perception of a certain issue or situation. The danger of manipulating the reader with false or conveniently selected material is clear, and antithetical to an open society.

We therefore request that the CIA be absolutely prohibited from funding, publishing, or assisting in any way in the production of books, either within the United States or abroad.

Covert recruitment of students. According to the Senate Committee Report, CIA maintains contractual relationships with key professors on numerous campuses for the purpose of spotting and recruiting both American and foreign students. This employment of professors as spies against legitimate students is a violation of academic freedom. We believe that covert recruitment and manipulation of students, especially non-nationals, is not only a violation of the statutory prohibition banning the CIA from domestic operations, but also incompatible with basic notions of decency and trust.

We therefore request that the CIA maintain no secret relationships with faculty or administrators and that the CIA recruit no foreign students on American campuses.

Security checks on students and faculty members. The policy of running covert security checks on campus, without the knowledge of those people being investigated or those being questioned must be ended. It is clear invasion of privacy, and in the past these security checks have been misused to gather domestic intelligence data.

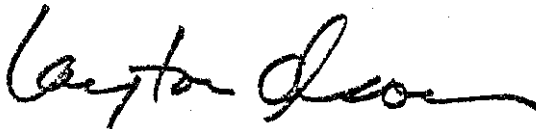
We therefore request that all students or faculty members being checked by the CIA be notified that such an investigation is in process.

Surveillance of students. We have learned that under Operation CHAOS, the CIA conducted a massive program of surveillance and infiltration on American campuses. Instead of ending these practices, President Ford's Executive Order authorizes the CIA to infiltrate organizations made up of non-nationals, i.e. foreign student groups, "for the purpose of reporting on or influencing its activities." We can think of no circumstances where the CIA would be justified in secretly carrying on investigations or disruptive acts on campuses. Universities should not be allowed to become secret arms of our foreign policy or targets for spying.

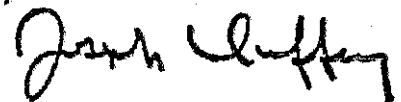
We therefore request that there be no CIA operational role whatsoever on American campuses.

We are alarmed at the heavy censorship by the CIA of the Senate Select Committee's report on CIA ties with universities, and the devastating effect such covert relationships have on the academic process. We would appreciate your addressing yourself specifically to each of our requests and state the policy rationale for accepting or rejecting our positions. We would also be grateful if you could furnish us with any authority, statutory or otherwise, which the CIA believes it has to operate on American campuses or to use as cover or conduits American academic groups or individuals.

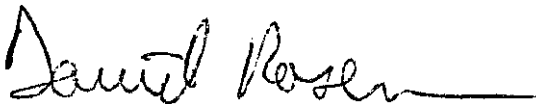
Sincerely,



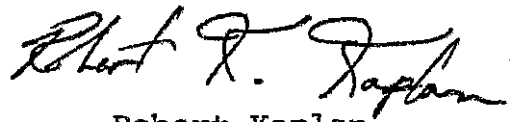
Layton Olson, President\*  
National Student Educational  
Fund



Joseph Duffey  
General Secretary\*  
American Association of  
University Professors



David Rosen  
Legislative Director \*  
National Student Lobby



Robert Kaplan  
Executive Director \*  
Coalition of Independent  
College & University  
Students

\*The above have signed this statement as individuals and not on behalf of their organizations. Organizational affiliation listed

*McEvans*

**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

25 MAY 1976

Messrs. Layton Olson, David Rosen,  
Joseph Duffey and Robert Kaplan  
c/o N.S.E.F.  
Suite #305  
2000 P Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036

Gentlemen:

Your letter of 5 May 1976, asking me to accede to a variety of requests, has caused me deep concern. While I understand your point of view, I am sure you will appreciate the fact that this Agency has received considerable adverse, and often unfair, publicity based on a less than adequate knowledge of the circumstances.

As I have assured one of your colleagues, I want to assure you that regardless of whatever you may have heard about the past there is now no reason for the American academic community to fear any threat to its integrity or high sense of purpose from the CIA. It is true that we maintain many relationships with American universities, research institutions and individual scholars. However, none of these involve the influencing of what is being taught or the professional work of any scholar, and does not inhibit in any way the freedom and integrity of the academic community.

All we seek, openly or with discretion as circumstances require, is the voluntary and witting cooperation of those individuals who wish to express their freedom of choice by contributing to the intelligence needs of their government. Experience has shown that our relationships with the academic community have contributed greatly to these needs.

With respect to your requests, I feel I cannot adopt any position which would deprive this nation of the needed expertise freely and voluntarily given by members of the American academic community. In addition to the loss this nation would suffer, the course you suggest would be an infringement of the rights of the individual members of the academic community. I am sure that many members of your organization espouse the ideas set forth in your letter. But I am equally sure there are many who would take an opposing view. Many persons, motivated



by their sense of responsibility and patriotism, wish to contribute to the welfare of the nation. To adopt a policy which would prevent this would be an intrusion on the privacy and integrity of the academic community and would infringe on the very freedom which you are trying to protect. Additionally, there are constitutional questions in the areas of freedom of choice, discrimination and equal protection under the law which edicts along the lines you suggest would raise if based merely on an individual's ties to the academic world.

Finally, I do not feel it would be useful to address each of your requests. My responsibilities are well documented. This Agency values its exchange with American academic institutions and I believe such exchange is similarly important to the academic world. I see no reason to alter this relationship.

Sincerely,

STATINTL

  
George Bush  
Director

SENDER WILL CHECK CLASSIFICATION TOP AND BOTTOM			
UNCLASSIFIED	CONFIDENTIAL	SECRET	
<b>OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP</b>			
TO	NAME AND ADDRESS	DATE	INITIALS
1	<i>Lew</i>		<i>[initials]</i>
2			
3	<i>File CAR Chrono</i>		
4	<i>CIA Below/Lead</i>		
5			
6			
ACTION		DIRECT REPLY	PREPARE REPLY
APPROVAL		DISPATCH	RECOMMENDATION
COMMENT		FILE	RETURN
CONCURRENCE		INFORMATION	SIGNATURE
<b>Remarks:</b> <i>Here are the letter and response that were missing from our set. Not much bill have on either side in this exchange. Good idea not to answer each charge.</i>			
<b>FOLD HERE TO RETURN TO SENDER</b>			
FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.			DATE
<i>[Signature]</i>			<i>6-2</i>
UNCLASSIFIED		CONFIDENTIAL	SECRET